

AUTUMN ISSUE
No. 10

THE

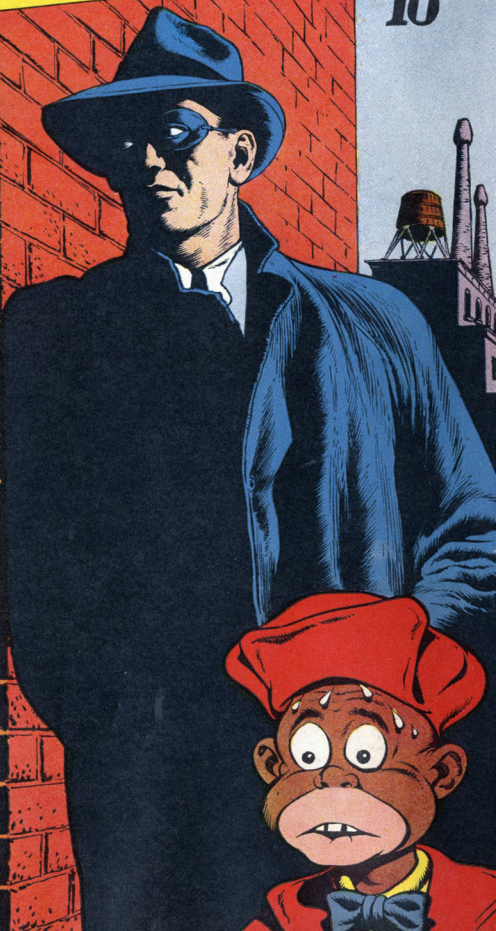
SPIRIT

SM
A



10¢

**STALKS
CRIME!**





WEB COMIC
UNIVERSE.COM

DO YOU WANT SPENDING MONEY?

Sell these popular Patriotic and Religious Mottos

SEND US NO MONEY IN ADVANCE

Just write and ask us to send you 40 of these beautiful glittering mottos which the public likes so well. Sell them easily and quickly to your friends and neighbors for only 35¢ each. At the end of 14 days send back, if you wish, all mottos you have not sold, and send us only 25¢ for each you have sold. You keep all the rest of the money.

IF YOU SELL 25, YOU KEEP \$2.50

IF YOU SELL 30, YOU KEEP \$3.00

IF YOU SELL ALL 40 YOU KEEP \$4.00

REMEMBER: No money is needed in advance. You take no risks.
You can return all the mottos you do not sell.
You do not pay shipping costs or split your commission. You keep all the profit on each sale.

WRITE
FOR COMPLETE
DETAILS
TO



CREDIT SALES COMPANY

406 North Main Street P. O. Box 106 Normal, Illinois
Dept. Q-11

The Spirit

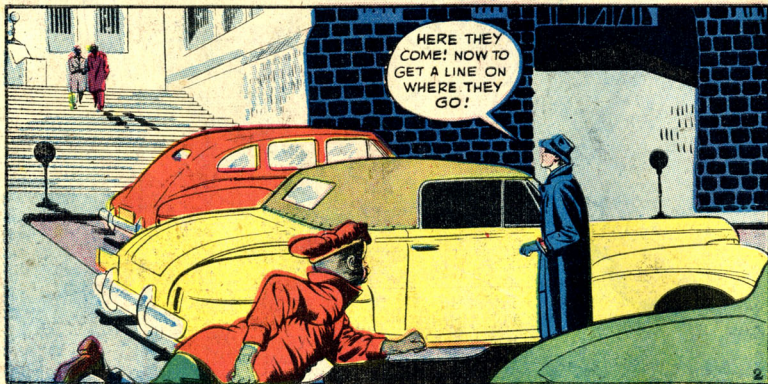
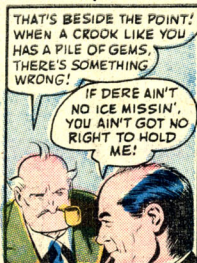
THE SPIRIT



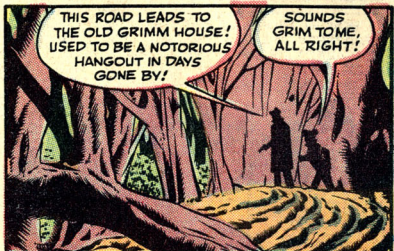
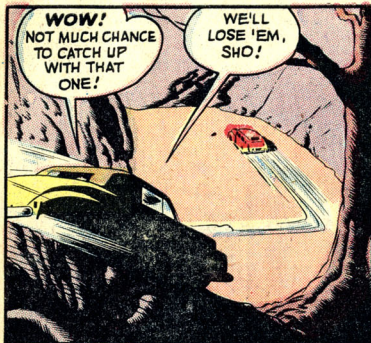
**HAS THE MIGHTY SPIRIT BEEN CAUGHT
AND HUMBLLED IN THE DUST?**

IN EACH MAN'S LIFE THE LAW OF AVERAGES CATCHES
UP! THIS TIME IT LOOKS AS THOUGH DAME FORTUNE
HAS DESERTED THE SPIRIT!

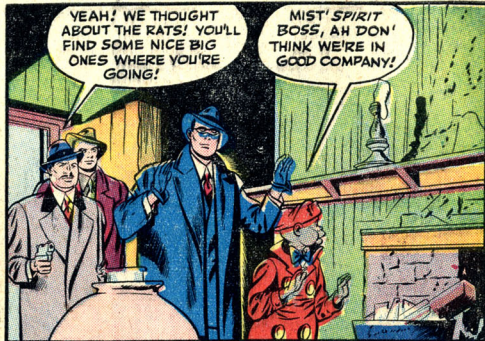
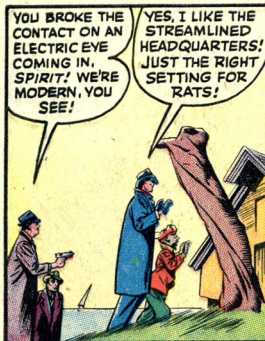
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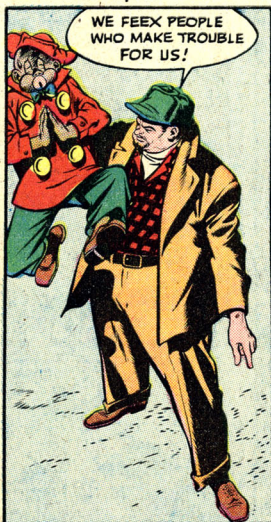
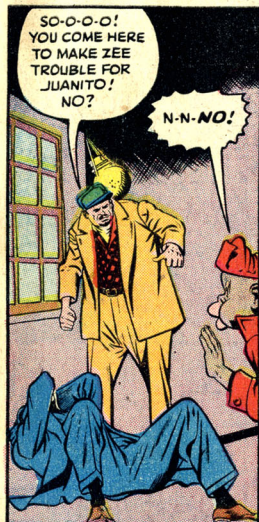
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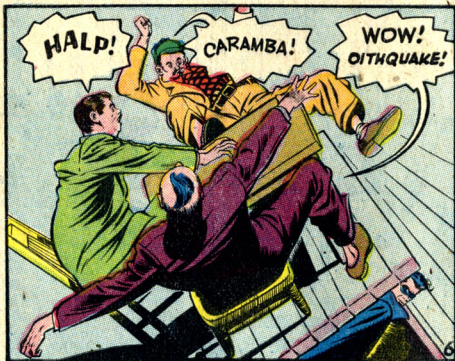
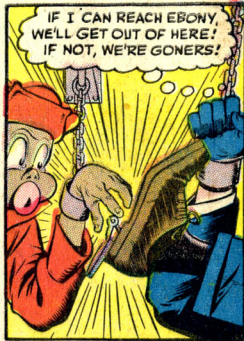
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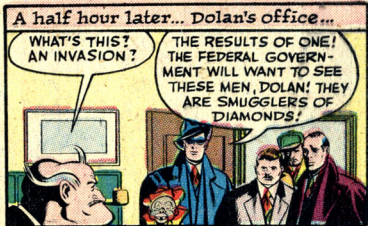


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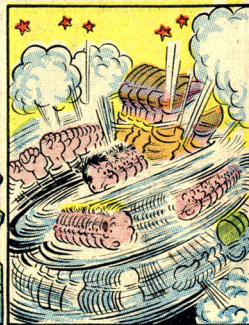
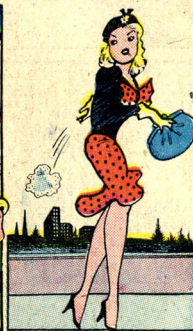
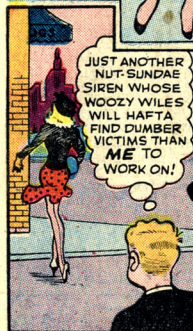
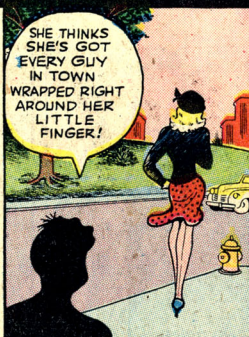
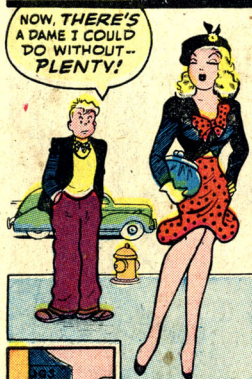
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JONESY

By DIB



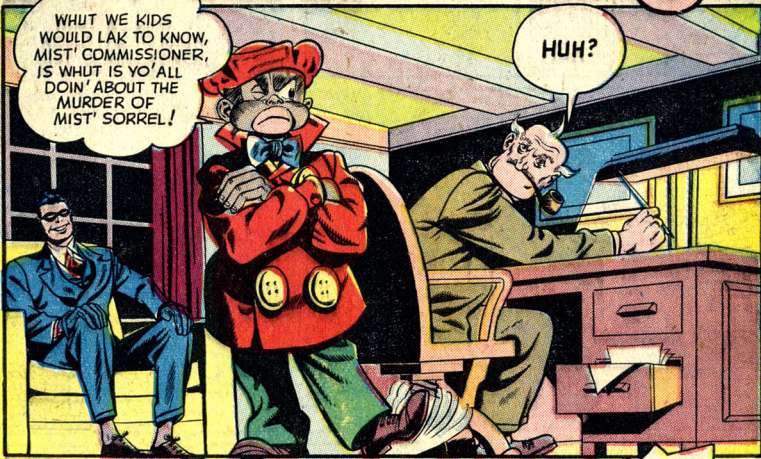
THE

SPIRIT



WHUT WE KIDS
WOULD LAK TO KNOW,
MIST' COMMISSIONER,
IS WHUT IS YO' ALL
DOIN' ABOUT THE
MURDER OF
MIST' SORREL!

HUH?



MIST' SORREL
DONE MO' FO' US KIDS
THAN ANY OTHER MAN IN
THIS HYAH TOWN ...AN'
NOW SOMEBODY KILLS
HIM AN' YO' CAIN'T
EVEN KETCH THE
MURDERER!

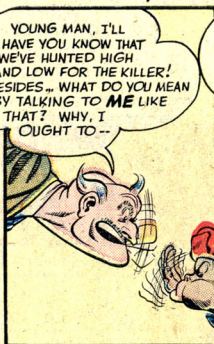
OF ALL
THE
NERVE!!



The Spirit



MIST' SORREL
BUILT PLAYGROUNDS
AN' A SWIMMIN' POOL
FO' US KIDS! YO' CAIN'T
JES' SET THERE AN' LET
DE MAN DAT KILLED
HIM GIT AWAY
WIF IT!



YOUNG MAN, I'LL
HAVE YOU KNOW THAT
WE'VE HUNTED HIGH
AND LOW FOR THE KILLER!
BESIDES... WHAT DO YOU MEAN
BY TALKING TO **ME** LIKE
THAT? WHY, I
OUGHT TO--



SPIRIT! YOU
GET THAT FRESH
BRAT OUT OF HERE
BEFORE I TEAR
HIM APART!



DOLAN, WHEN
YOU GET MAD
LIKE THAT, YOU'RE
PRACTICALLY
ADMITTING!
HE'S RIGHT!



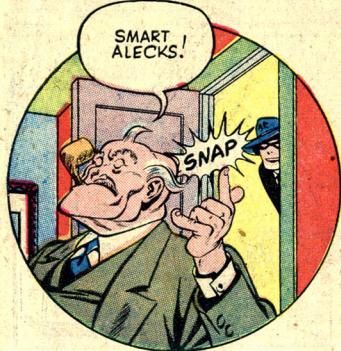
IS THAT SO? WELL,
LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING!
YOU CAN GET RIGHT OUT OF HERE
WITH *HIM*, WISE GUY! NOBODY
TELLS ME HOW TO DO MY
JOB! I SUPPOSE YOU
THINK YOU'D FIND IT
EASY TO SOLVE THE
SORREL MYSTERY!

MAYBE
NOT EASY...
BUT I THINK
IT COULD
BE DONE!



WELL... WHY
DON'T YOU DO
IT, THEN?

I WAS JUST
WAITING FOR YOUR
PERMISSION!
THANKS, DOLAN!



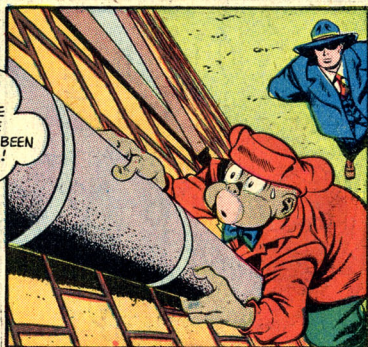
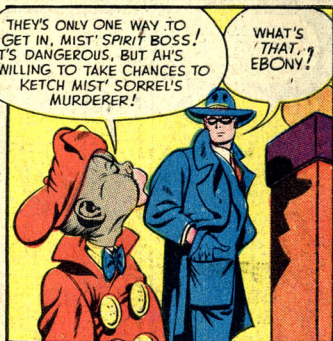
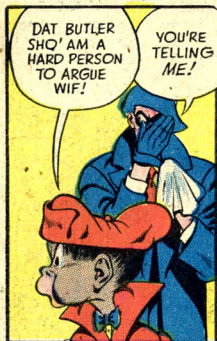
SMART
ALECKS.

SNAP

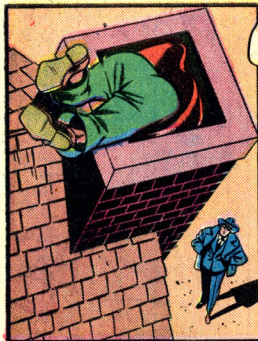


WHUT DOES
WE DO FUST,
MIST' SPIRIT
BOSS?

HAVE A TALK
WITH MRS. SORREL,
I GUESS!



The Spirit



DE DOOR'S OPEN!
WHEW! DAT SHO'
HAD ME
WORRIED!



ALL SET,
MIST' SPIRIT
BOSS!

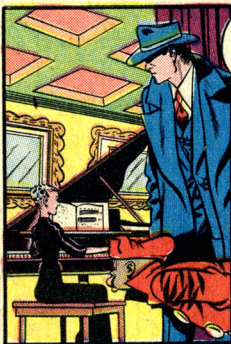


NICE
WORK,
EBONY!

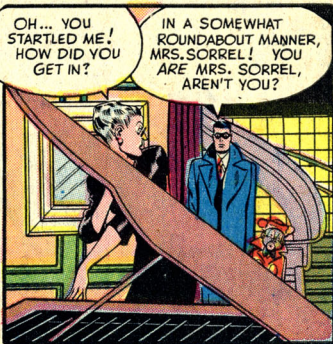
SOMEBODY'S
PLAYING THE
PIANO!



OH... YOU
STARTLED ME!
HOW DID YOU
GET IN?



IN A SOMEWHAT
ROUNDABOUT MANNER,
MRS. SORREL! YOU
ARE MRS. SORREL,
AREN'T YOU?



WHY, YES,
OF COURSE!
WHY HAVE YOU
COME HERE!

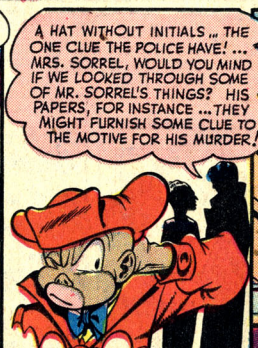
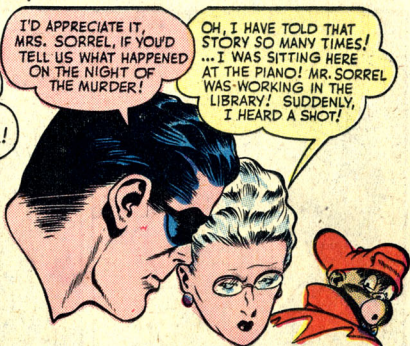
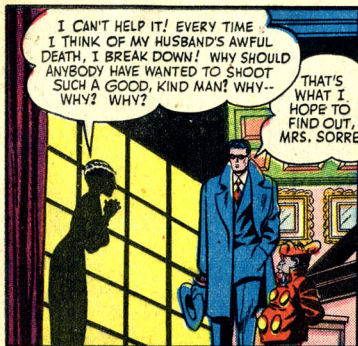


TO TALK
TO YOU ABOUT
THE DEATH OF
YOUR HUSBAND!

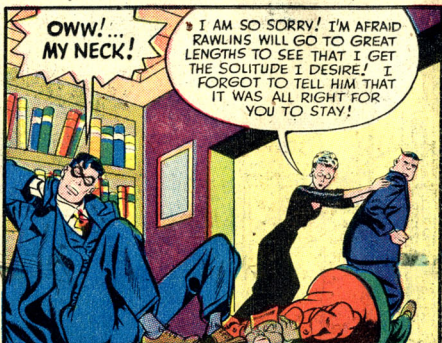
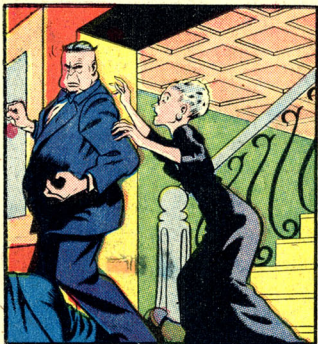
I'M TERRIBLY
SORRY, MRS. SORREL!
I DIDN'T MEAN TO
UPSET YOU!



The Spirit



The Spirit



I GUESS IT'S LUCKY YOU CAME ALONG, MRS. SORREL, OR HE'D HAVE FINISHED US!



I THINK WE CAN FORGET IT!



FINE!



The Spirit



I'M AFRAID SO!



WAIT!



I GUESS WE CAN GO NOW, EBONY!



THANK YOU, MRS. SORREL! I'M AFRAID WE DIDN'T HAVE MUCH SUCCESS!

YOU TRIED TO FIND THE MURDERER! IT IS ALL ANYBODY CAN DO! RAWLINS WILL SHOW YOU TO THE DOOR!



I'M SORRY ABOUT WHAT I DID, SIR!... I DIDN'T KNOW THAT MRS. SORREL CONSIDERED YOU AS FRIENDS!

THAT'S ALL RIGHT, RAWLINS! ...WE'VE FORGOTTEN ALL ABOUT IT!

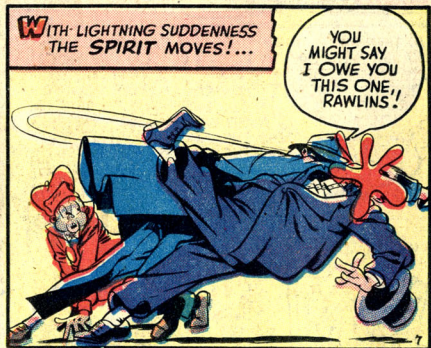


DO YOU MIND IF I WALK WITH YOU, SIR? I HAVE TO PURCHASE SOMETHING IN ONE OF THE STORES!

COME ON ALONG!



SPORT SHOP



WITH LIGHTNING SUDDENNESS THE SPIRIT MOVES!...

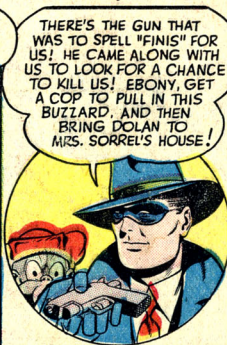
YOU MIGHT SAY I OWE YOU THIS ONE, RAWLINS!

The Spirit



BUT MIST' SPIRIT BOSS! WHY'D YO' DO DAT AFTER YO' SAID EVERYTHING WAS ALL RIGHT!

EBONY. UNLESS I'M MISTAKEN, MR. RAWLINS WAS JUST ABOUT READY TO BUMP US BOTH OFF!



THERE'S THE GUN THAT WAS TO SPELL "FINIS" FOR US! HE CAME ALONG WITH US TO LOOK FOR A CHANCE TO KILL US! EBONY, GET A COP TO PULL IN THIS BUZZARD. AND THEN BRING DOLAN TO MRS. SORREL'S HOUSE!



THOUGHTFUL OF ME TO TAKE RAWLINS' KEY!

IS IT DONE, RAWLINS?



NO, MRS. SORREL! IT ISN'T DONE! ... I DECIDED NOT TO GIVE MR. RAWLINS AN OPPORTUNITY TO KILL US!



CONFESS THAT YOU SENT HIM ALONG TO KILL US! YOU MAY AS WELL, BECAUSE I KNOW NOW THAT YOU KILLED YOUR HUSBAND!

IT'S TRUE! I'M GLAD YOU KNOW! NOW I NO LONGER HAVE TO LIVE IN FEAR OF BEING DISCOVERED!



EBONY ARRIVES WITH DOLAN

WHAT MADE YOU SUSPECT HER?

READ THAT! "...CALL ATTORNEYS, TO REVISE WILL IN FAVOR OF UNITED CHARITIES!"... APPARENTLY, MR. SORREL WAS ABOUT TO CUT HER OUT OF HIS WILL, SO SHE KILLED HIM!



THEN SHE PLANTED A HAT AND A BROKEN WINDOW IN THE ROOM TO THROW YOU OFF, DOLAN! LUCKILY, SHE OVERLOOKED THIS MEMORANDUM!

BUT MIST' SPIRIT BOSS, WHY'D WE LEAVE WIF MR. RAWLINS EF'N YO' ALREADY KNEW MRS. SORREL WAS GUILTY?



BECAUSE I HAD TO HAVE PROOF THAT MRS. SORREL WAS SO AFRAID OF BEING FOUND OUT THAT SHE'D RESORT TO A SECOND ATTEMPT TO KILL US!

A SECOND ATTEMPT?



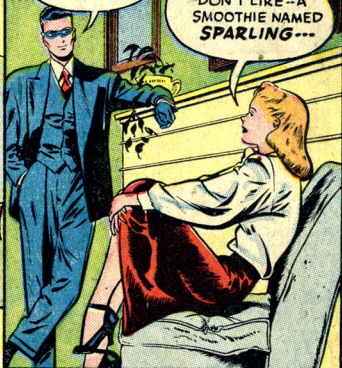
YES! MRS. SORREL WAS THOROUGHLY FRIGHTENED BY OUR CURIOSITY -- AND SHE DETERMINED TO HAVE US KILLED ... BUT, THE FIRST TIME, RAWLINS WAS FOOL ENOUGH TO ATTEMPT IT RIGHT IN THE HOUSE, SO SHE STOPPED HIM!



At the home of
Commissioner Dolan...

YOU SAY
YOUR COUSIN'S
VISITING YOU,
ELLEN? ---
AND YOU'RE
WORRIED?

YES! COOKIE'S
HUNGRY FOR
ROMANCE!
SHE'S PICKED UP
AN ADMIRER I
DON'T LIKE--A
SMOOTHIE NAMED
SPARLING---



I HOPED
YOU'D HELP ME
TALK SENSE TO
HER! -- OH, HERE
SHE IS NOW!

OOOO! YOU
MUST BE THAT
WONDERFUL
SPIRIT!

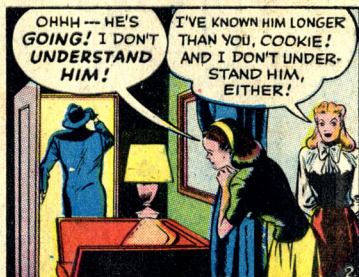
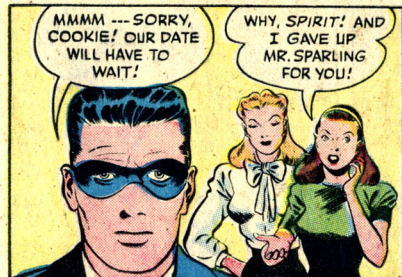
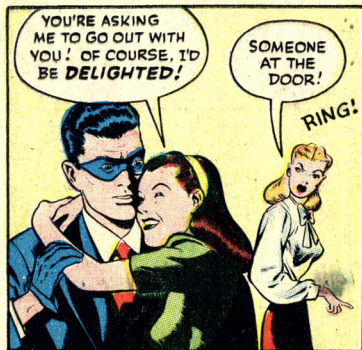


COOKIE, WE'RE YOUR
FRIENDS! WE WANT
TO HELP YOU HAVE FUN,
BUT SENSIBLE FUN!
IF I ASK YOU TO---

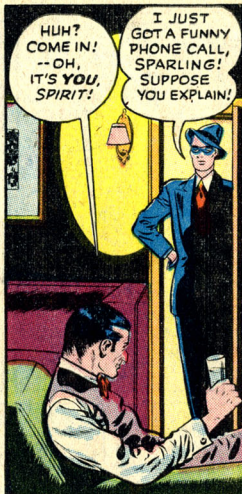
YES, YES,
SPIRIT!
YOU'RE GOING
TO ASK
ME ---



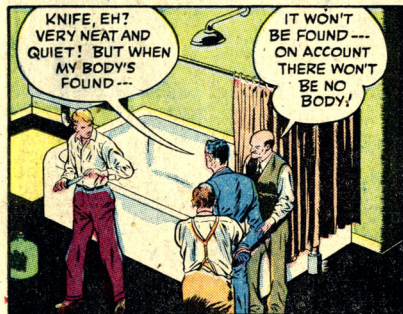
The Spirit



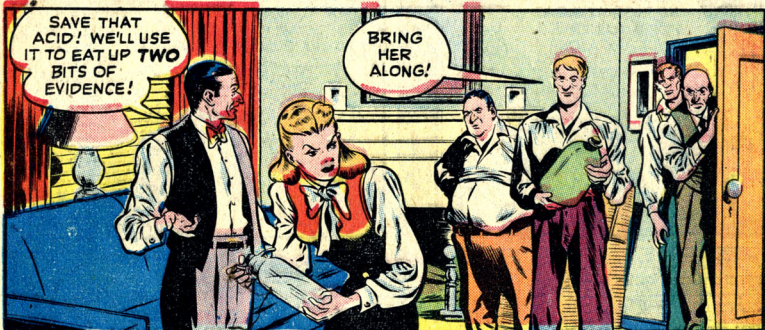
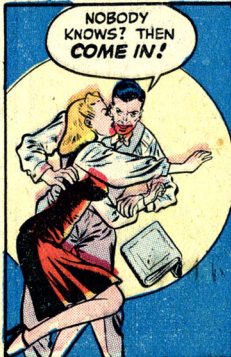
The Spirit



The Spirit



The Spirit



The Spirit

Left alone for the moment, the Spirit strives to free himself ...

THE ROPE IS STRONG ... WELL TIED ...

BUT THE PLUMBING SEEMS TO BE BADLY CONNECTED !

MAYBE THE BEST WAY IS THE OLD-FASHIONED WAY ... A HUNK OF LEAD FOR THE LADY, THEN FOR THE SPIRIT ...

WHERE ARE MY HOSTS? IT'S BAD FORM TO LEAVE A VISITOR ALONE ...

IT'S WORSE FORM TO POINT, ESPECIALLY WITH A GUN !

HE'S LOOSE! TACKLE HIM!

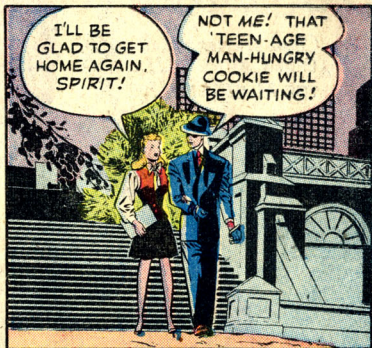
Meanwhile, in the apartment below ...

WHAT'S ALL THAT SCUFFLING UPSTAIRS, HONEY?

SOME SORT OF WILD PARTY! LOOK -- THAT GREEN STUFF HAS EATEN DOWN THROUGH OUR CEILING!

FINISH HIM! HE'S ONLY ONE AGAINST ALL OF YOU ...

THAT'S THE TROUBLE ... THERE'S SO MANY OF US TO HIT!



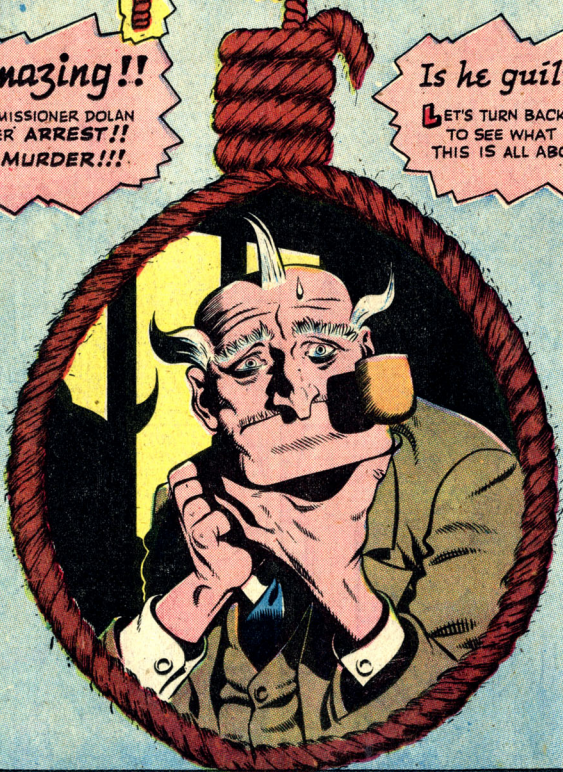
The Spirit

Amazing!!

COMMISSIONER DOLAN
UNDER ARREST!!
FOR MURDER!!!

Is he guilty?

LET'S TURN BACKWARD
TO SEE WHAT
THIS IS ALL ABOUT---



The Spirit

Mr. Dolan -
You are invited to the opening
of the new offices of
SKELTOR and CRABB, Private Detectives,
Thursday at 9 P.M.
Come and have fun --and learn how
SKELTOR and CRABB will make fools
of BACK NUMBER PUBLIC OFFICIALS!

P.S. - Tie on your hat,
Dolan -- we're going to back
you right out of the
crime-solving
business, and the
pace will be
terrific!
S. and C.

YOU MEAN YOU'LL
ACCEPT THAT
INSULTING
INVITATION?

NOTHING WILL KEEP
ME AWAY! SKELTOR AND
CRABB SOUND AS IF
THEY'RE PLANNING TO
INTERFERE WITH
LAW ENFORCEMENT!

THE SPIRIT
STEALS ENOUGH
OF MY THUNDER
AS IT IS!

YOU MEAN
ME? COME
ON -- I'M GOING
TO THAT HOUSE-
WARMING WITH
YOU!

HOW DID
YOU KNOW
ABOUT THAT
INVITATION?
'I DIDN'T
TELL YOU!

NO -- BUT ALL PUBLIC
OFFICIALS WERE INVITED!
-- THE MAYOR, THE JUDGES,
THE SHERIFF, THE PROSE-
CUTING ATTORNEY! THERE'S
THE LIGHT IN THEIR NEW
OFFICE WINDOW!

HERE COMES
DOLAN! ... HI,
COMMISSIONER--
I'M SKELTOR,
AND THIS IS MY
PARTNER, CRABB!

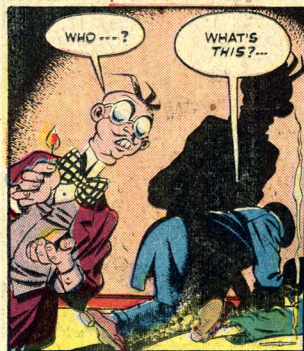
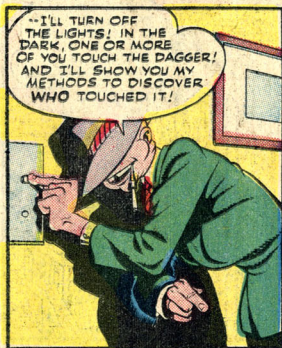
SKELTOR, THIS IS A CHEAP
PUBLICITY STUNT! HOW DO
YOU THINK YOU CAN OUTGUESS
THE POLICE DEPARTMENT
ON CRIMES?

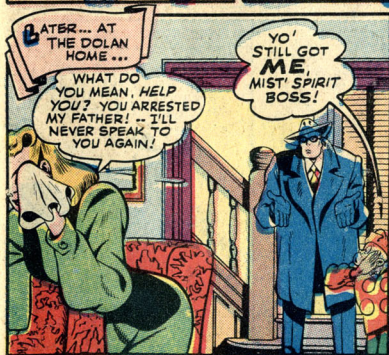
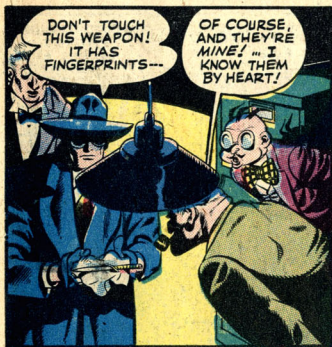
THE
ONLY
SURPRISE
WOULD
BE IF I
COULDN'T!

WHY, YOU *☆!#&*
FOUR-FLUSHER! I'LL
CUT YOU WIDE
OPEN!

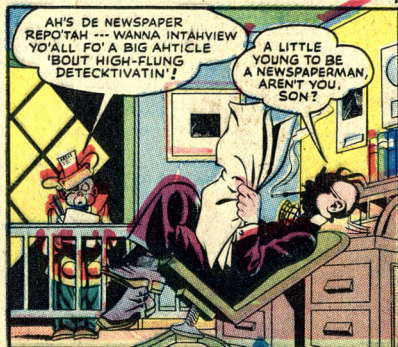
HOLD IT,
DOLAN!

The Spirit



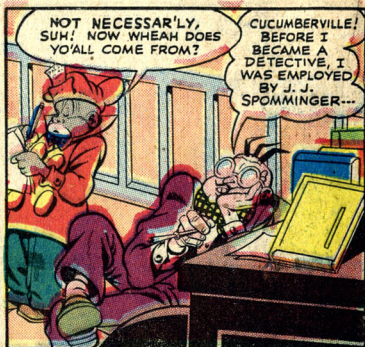


The Spirit



AH'S DE NEWSPAPER
REPO'TAH --- WANNA INTAHVIEW
YO'ALL FO' A BIG AH'TICLE
'BOUT HIGH-FLUNG
DETECTIVATIN'!

A LITTLE
YOUNG TO BE
A NEWSPAPERMAN,
AREN'T YOU,
SON?



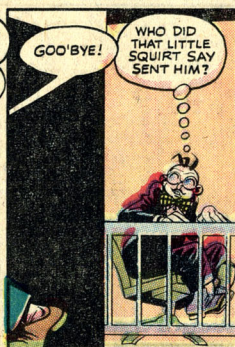
NOT NECESSAR'LY,
SUH! NOW WHEAH DOES
YO'ALL COME FROM?

CUCUMBERVILLE!
BEFORE I
BECAME A
DETECTIVE, I
WAS EMPLOYED
BY J. J.
SPOMMINGER---



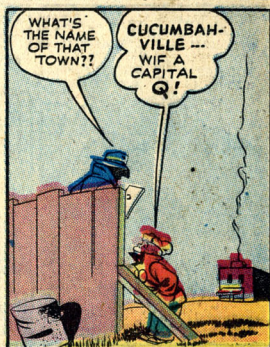
WAIT! AREN'T
YOU GOING TO
GET THE REST
OF THE
INTERVIEW?

NOSSUH!
DAT'S ALL MIST'
SPIRIT BOSS--
I MEANS, DE
EDITOR---
WANTED ME TO
FIND OUT!



GOO'B'YE!

WHO DID
THAT LITTLE
SQUIRT SAY
SENT HIM?



WHAT'S
THE NAME
OF THAT
TOWN??

CUCUMBAH-
VILLE ---
WIF A
CAPITAL
Q!



AN' DE MAN
HE DONE WUK
FO' WAS
SPOMMINGER!

ELEEN? FORGET
THIS PETTY QUARREL!
WE'VE GOT TO SAVE
YOUR FATHER!
HURRY TO THE
LIBRARY AND BORROW
THE CUCUMBERVILLE
DIRECTORY!



I'LL DO IT!
I FELT SO
LONELY... I
HOPED YOU'D
CALL AND LET
ME FORGIVE
YOU!

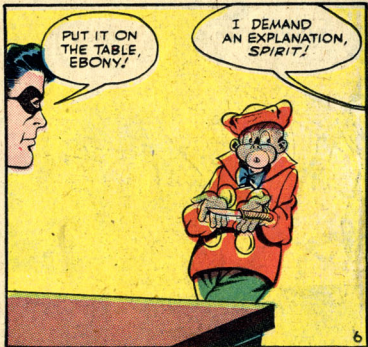
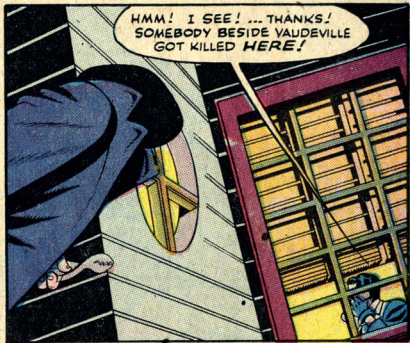


A SHORT TIME LATER...

MIST' SPIRIT
BOSS! AH
FEELS WE
IS BEIN'
FOLLOWED!

I HOPE
YOU'RE
RIGHT,
EBONY!

The Spirit



The Spirit



GLAD YOU DROPPED IN, CRABB!

WHAT ARE YOU AND THIS LITTLE SNEAK TRYING TO PUT OVER ON ME?



HE CLAIMED TO WORK FOR A NEWSPAPER --- BUT HE MENTIONED YOUR NAME --BY ACCIDENT!

NO, CRABB, HE MENTIONED IT ON PURPOSE!



I WANTED TO SEE IF YOU WERE SUFFICIENTLY WORRIED TO FOLLOW US FOR A SHOWDOWN!

YOU DON'T SUSPECT ME OF ANYTHING!



EVERYONE AT YOUR OFFICE LAST NIGHT WAS A PUBLIC OFFICIAL! ... I KNOW THEM FOR TRUSTWORTHY MEN! BUT YOU---

THAT GIVES YOU NO RIGHT TO SUSPECT ME!



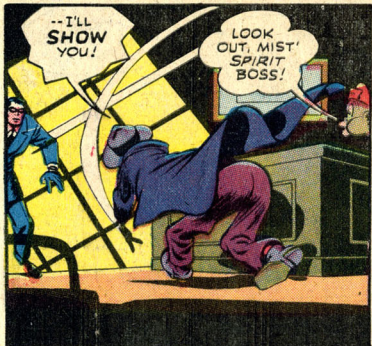
BUT YOU'VE FOLLOWED US --CUT OUR PHONE WIRE -- JUST AFTER YOUR EX-BOSS TOLD ME YOU WERE A KNIFE-THROWER!

WHO SAYS THE KNIFE THAT KILLED SKELTER WAS THROWN?



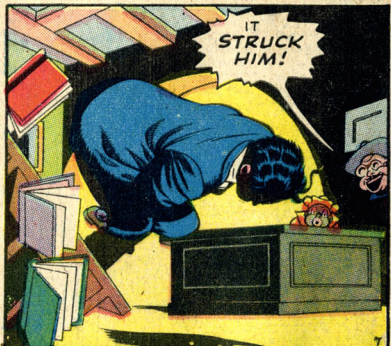
MAYBE YOU'LL TELL ME HOW YOU KEPT YOUR OWN FINGER-PRINTS FROM SHOWING!

I WON'T TELL YOU ---



--I'LL SHOW YOU!

LOOK OUT, MIST' SPIRIT BOSS!



IT STRUCK HIM!

The Spirit



DON'T BE WORRIED, FOLKS! KNUCKLES ARE BETTER THAN KNIVES!



SO YOU WERE THE KILLER! NO FINGER-PRINTS --BECAUSE YOU TOOK THE KNIFE BY THE BLADE TO THROW IT!

YOU'RE NOT EVEN BLEEDING! YOU MUST BE A DEVIL!

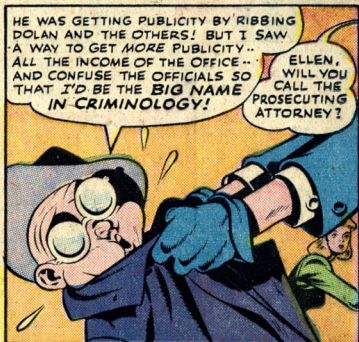


NO, JUST THE SPIRIT! BUT THE KNIFE I LEFT HANDY FOR YOU TO GRAB WAS MADE OF RUBBER! AN OLD APRIL FOOL GADGET!



YOU'LL SAVE US TROUBLE BY CONFESSING!

OKAY! SKELTER WAS THE SHOWY MEMBER OF THE COMPANY --TAKING ALL THE CREDIT WHILE I DID THE WORK! WE FIGURED TO MAKE LOTS OF MONEY-- SPLIT TWO WAYS!

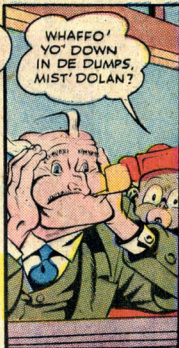


HE WAS GETTING PUBLICITY BY 'RIBBING DOLAN AND THE OTHERS! BUT I SAW A WAY TO GET MORE PUBLICITY-- ALL THE INCOME OF THE OFFICE-- AND CONFUSE THE OFFICIALS SO THAT I'D BE THE BIG NAME IN CRIMINOLOGY!

ELLEN, WILL YOU CALL THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY?



I'LL NEVER MISTRUST YOU AGAIN, SPIRIT! YOU HAD FAITH IN DADDY ALL THE TIME!



WHAFFO' YO' DOWN IN DE DUMPS, MIST' DOLAN?



AFTER SPENDING A NIGHT IN JAIL, I'M SORRY FOR EVERYBODY I EVER ARRESTED!

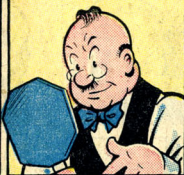
JONESY

By DIB

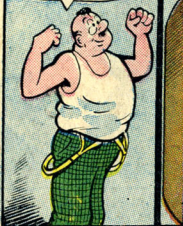
WELL! ONLY ONE COLLAR BUTTON LEFT IN MY HOBBY BOX-- THE ONE I'VE BEEN SAVING SPECIALLY FOR TODAY!



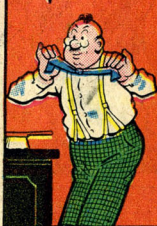
TO THINK-- SIX YEARS AGO, I WAS A NERVOUS WRECK BEFORE THE DOC ADVISED ME TO TAKE UP A HOBBY!



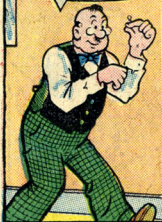
NOW LOOK AT ME!-- NOT A NERVE IN MY BODY... CALM AS A CLAM... HAVEN'T SPOKEN A HOT WORD IN YEARS!



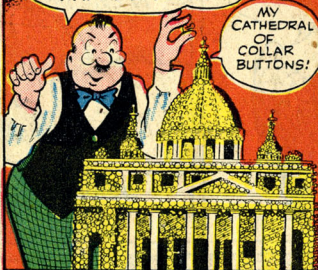
EVER SINCE I STARTED THAT ODD HOBBY OF BUILDING THINGS OUT OF COLLAR BUTTONS!



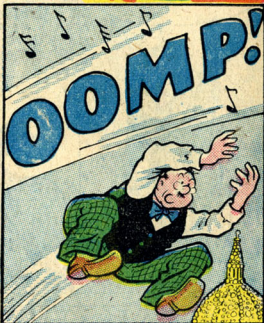
AND NOW MY MASTERPIECE IS COMPLETE SAVE FOR THIS ONE LAST COLLAR BUTTON ON THE CUPOLA!



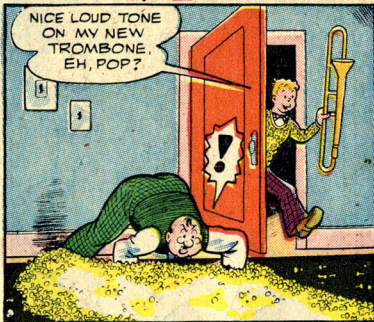
FINISHED! AFTER SIX YEARS OF TIRELESS HAPPY EFFORT!



MY CATHEDRAL OF COLLAR BUTTONS!

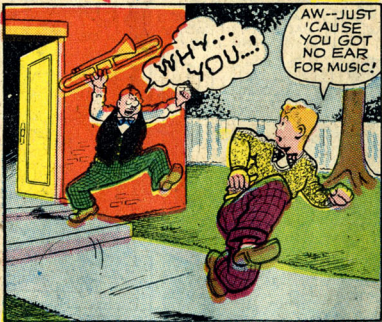


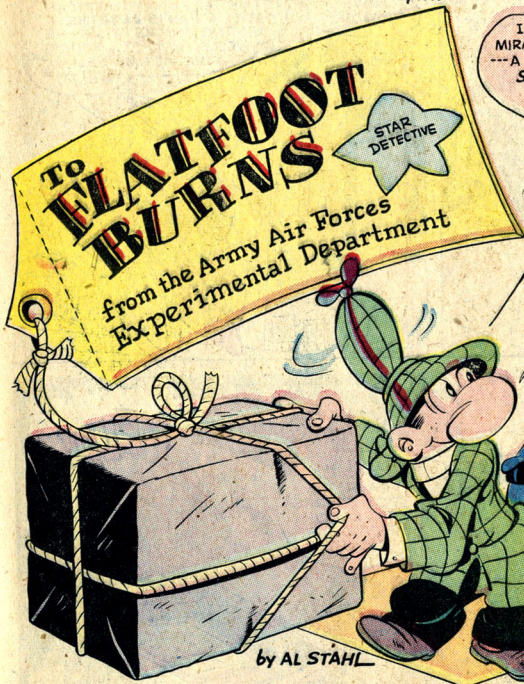
NICE LOUD TONE ON MY NEW TROMBONE. EH, POP?



WHY... YOU...

AW--JUST 'CAUSE YOU GOT NO EAR FOR MUSIC!





I HAVE HERE, CHIEF, A MODERN
MIRACLE OF SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENT
---A DEVICE WHICH MAKES ME THE
SPEEDIEST CRIME-SOLVING
DETECTIVE IN THE
WORLD!

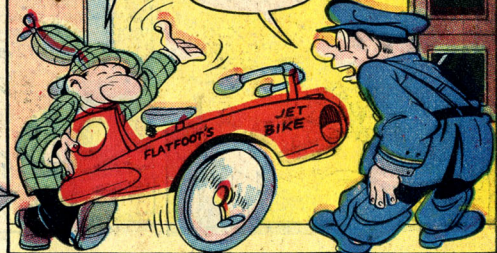
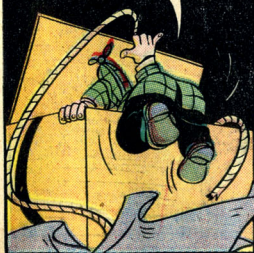
OH, YEAH?
HAW! HAW! HAW!
THEN DON'T BE SO
SLOW OPENING
THE PACKAGE!

by AL STAHL

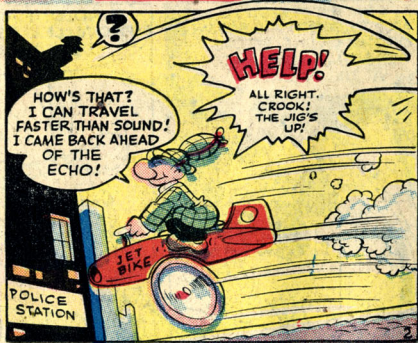
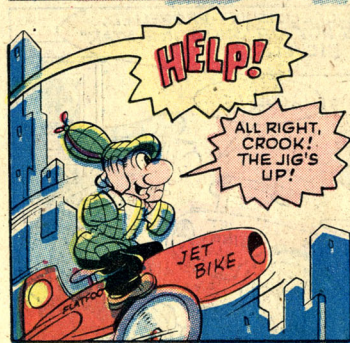
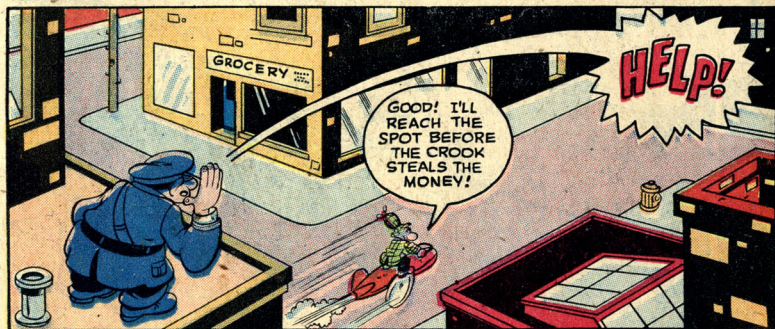
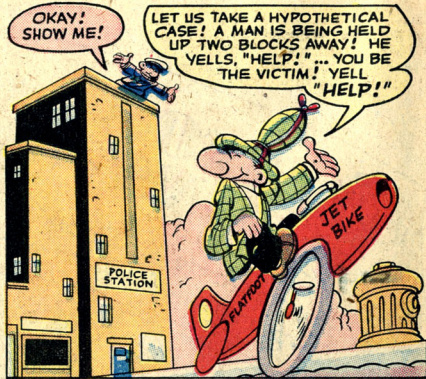
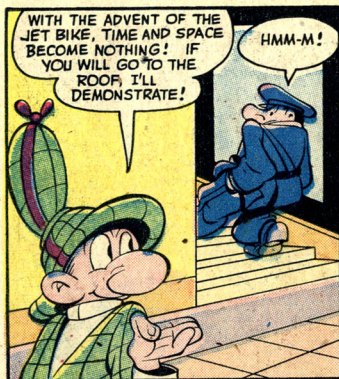
AS A MATTER OF FACT, I'LL BE
ABLE TO GET TO THE SCENE
OF THE CRIME BEFORE
THE CRIME TAKES PLACE
AT THE SCENE!

BEHOLD! FLATFOOT BURNS' JET-PROPELLED,
PROPELLERLESS HOT AIR "SHOOTING STAR"
DETECTIVE BICYCLE!

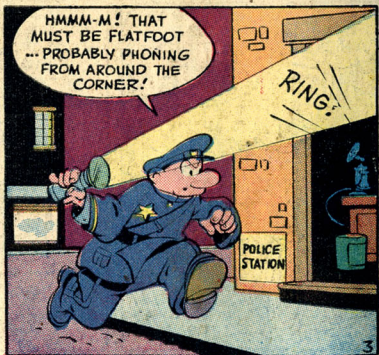
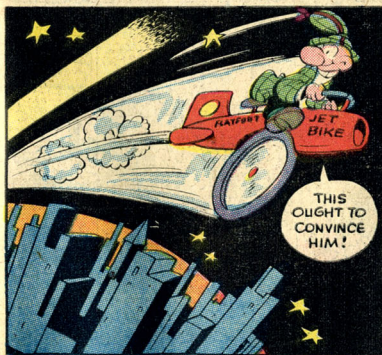
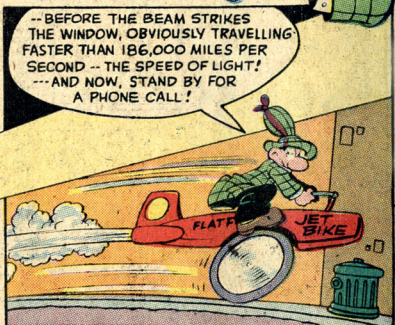
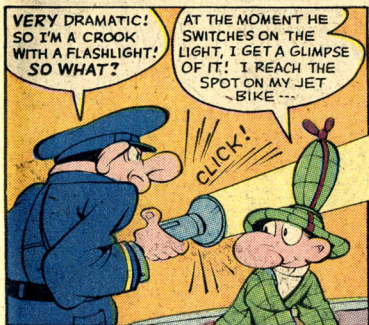
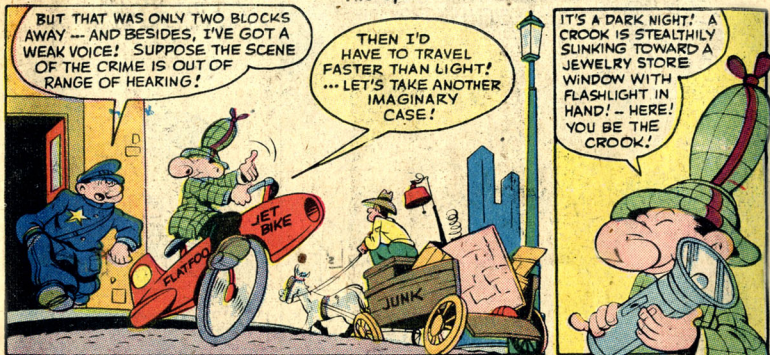
≥GULP!≤



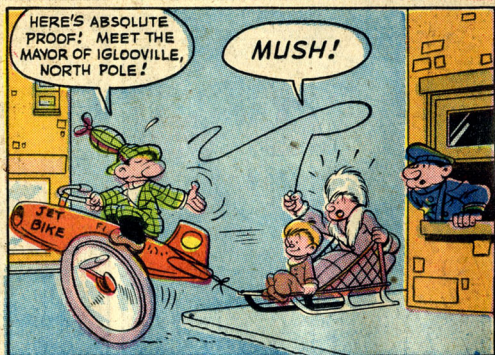
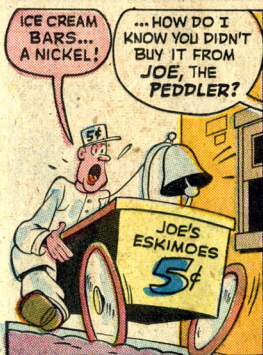
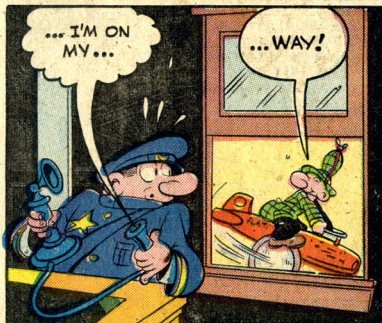
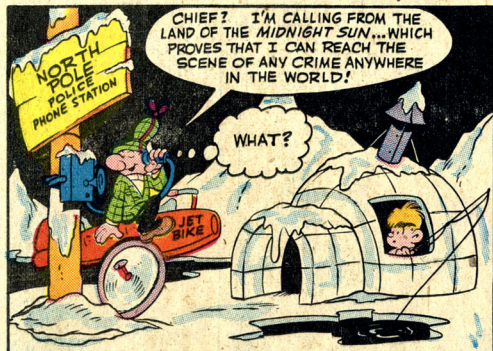
The Spirit



The Spirit



The Spirit

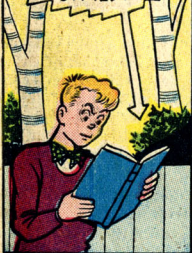


The Spirit

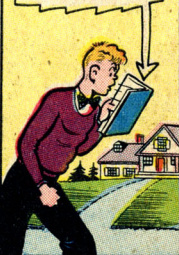
JONESY

by DIB

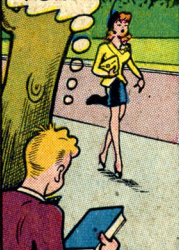
"BELIEVE IN YOURSELF
AND STEP OUT UNAFAID.
BY MISGIVINGS AND DOUBTS
BE NOT EASILY
SWAYED!"



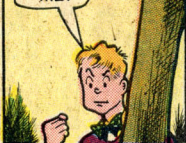
"THE WISDOM OF AGES
IS YOURS IF YOU'LL READ,
BUT YOU'VE GOT TO
BELIEVE IN YOURSELF
TO SUCCEED!"



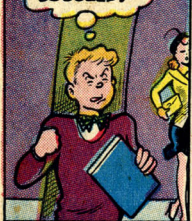
IT'S FATE--IT'S
DESTINY!
HERE SHE
COMES
NOW!



AM I GONNA CHOKE
UP, STAMMER AND
SPUTTER AND THEN
PULL A POWDER AS
USUAL? NO! --A
THOUSAND TIMES NO!
I'LL ASK THAT NEW
SUPER-SNOOTY WITCH
HERE AND NOW TO
GO TO THAT
DANCE WITH
ME!

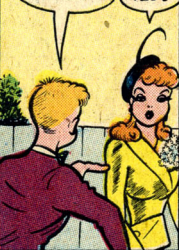


"THE WISDOM OF AGES IS
YOURS IF YOU'LL READ,
BUT YOU'VE GOT TO
BELIEVE IN YOUR-
SELF TO
SUCCEED!"



ER--AH--AHEM--
PAR'M--ME--
BUT --
ER-EH--

YES?

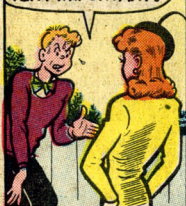


THAT IS-- YOU SEE --
M-M-MY NAME'S
MONES --JARVIN
MONES --JONES--
I MEAN-- MARVIN
JONES--

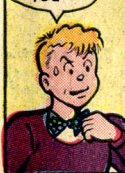
HOW
NICE!



NOW --O ULP--WE
LIVE ON CENTRE ST--
AND WELL--THAT IS--
22 CENTRE STR-- AND
I WANTED TO ASK
YOU SOMETHING
VERY IMPORTANT!



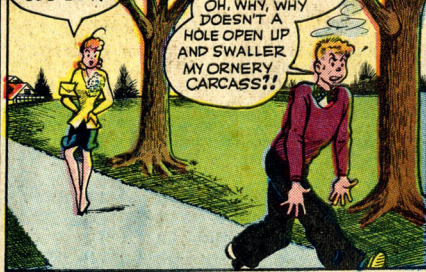
AND THAT
QUESTION IS --
GEE, I'LL BET
YOU THINK I
GOT NERVE --
GEE--BUT--BUT
THAT QUESTION
IS--WILL YOU--I
MEAN--DO
YOU --



DO YOU LIKE APPLE
B-BUTTER ON
C-CORN
FRITTERS?



WHAT AN
ODD BOY!



IT'S NO USE:
I AIN'T THE TYPE!
OH, WHY, WHY
DOESN'T A
HOLE OPEN UP
AND SWALLOW
MY ORNERY
CARCASS!!

BACKFIRE

"WHEN you move in on a town like this here Central City," said Nock Strube darkly, "you move in big. That's what we plan to do!"

"This here Commissioner Dolan," said his sidekick, Tick Spratts. "What about him?"

"Rube," snapped Nock. "Plain rube. Don't worry, none about him."

Nock hitched himself closer to the little hotel table and screwed his eyes up. "Now here's my plan, boys: They's more'n a hunnerd merchants in this here town—all waitin' to be milked dry. We start in tomorrow—the usual procedure."

"What if they squawk?" asked Finny Bonn.

Nock eyed his pal wryly. "Again the usual procedure. Let 'em have it!"

Spratts and Bonn nodded. They understood.

"Now get busy," said Nock. Line up as many as you can today and tomorrow. We wanta scam outa here in three or four days."

The two mugs left the hotel room furtively. They were well prepared for the dirty work afoot. Each carried a pad of cards printed with "Protective Association. Dues five dollars each month, in advance."

Tick sauntered down one street, Finny another. They would work casually, watching for stores that had few or no customers in while they put on the heat.

Tick entered a small hardware, which was vacant of customers for the moment, and approached the proprietor.

"You Mr. Burg?" asked Tick importantly.

"That's me. What can I do for you?"

Finny flashed one of his cards and an order book. "I'm Flaherty, o' the Protective Association," he said. "We're canvassing th' town today an' tomorrow. You fellows need protection. They's a bad gang movin' in here. We aim to keep you outa trouble. Sign right here, Mr. Burg." Tick held out the book and a fountain pen.

Burg looked at the form, then looked at the supposed "Mr. Flaherty."

"I don't quite understand, Mr. Flaherty," he said. "You mean I'm supposed to sign up for

some sort of protection? Protection against what?"

Tick drew a long face. "As I told you, Mr. Burg, they's a rotten gang moved into Central City. They mean to make it tough on every merchant—bleed 'em out of plenty of dough, if you get what I mean. Muscle men they are. Our organization will see that they don't pester you. It's five bucks a month, in advance."

"I see," said Burg dubiously. "Then this service costs me five dollars a month. Well, if what you say is true, I'd better sign."

He took the pen and scrawled his name, and Tick handed him a card.

"Put it up in a prominent place, Mr. Burg," he advsied him. "Then if any of them coyotes comes in here, they'll see it and lay off. Good day, sir."

Finny Bonn was giving out the same treatment in another part of town.

That evening when the two crooks gathered in the Boss's hotel room, they compared notes. Each had a roll of bills. Each packed a grin.

"Boss, this is easy pickin'," said Finny. "I only had two guys refuse—got their names and addresses right here." He held out a paper, which Nock took and scanned cursorily, shoving it in his pocket.

"How about you?" asked Nock to Tick.

"Same story, Nock. One guy put up a beef. I warned him what this 'gang' might do, but he threw me out. Here's his address."

Nock nodded solemnly "Tonight you guys have a little eltry work to do—nice work, eh?"

The two grinned. Anything dirty pleased them.

When Central City's fire department received three calls in a half hour, the whole town was alarmed. Never had they had so many fires. And all in so short a time. Three stores on the main streets of the city.

Commissioner Dolan shook his head when he read the report of the fires: burned to the ground, and two other stores had been burned, too.

"That's odd," said Dolan.

"Plenty odd," replied the fire chief. "We just

The Spirit

couldn't put them fires out, Commissioner. Must have been something incendiary used."

Dolan looked up quickly. "Used?" he said.

"Sure," said the fire chief. "Those fires was set, all right. Mebbe magnesium. Nothing could stop 'em."

"Hm," said Dolan, and pressed a button on his desk.

An orderly came in.

"You see anything of Ebony White trottin' about?" he asked.

The orderly said no.

"Then find him. Get him to tell *The Spirit* I want to see him right away."

The orderly left the office, and the commissioner and fire chief eyed each other.

"You aimin' to call in *The Spirit*?" asked the fire chief.

"What else?" snapped Dolan. "Whenever the forces of law and order fail, we call on *The Spirit*."

Ellen Dolan, the commissioner's daughter, came running into her dad's office, face flushed.

"You seen *The Spirit* today, Dad?" she asked brightly.

Dolan grinned. He loved this only daughter.

"No, baby, but I've just sent out to round him up."

"Looking for me?" said a voice behind them.

"Spirit!" exclaimed Dolan, rising. "We were just wondering where you were."

"Hi, Ellen!" said *The Spirit*. "What's up, Dolan?"

"These fires—" began Dolan. *The Spirit* laughed.

"Oh, those!" he said easily. "What about 'em?"

"I don't get the idea—they're set, according to the chief."

The Spirit nodded. "They're set, all right," he replied "and by a couple of crooks I'm going to lay by the heels soon!"

"What's the angle?" Dolan asked.

The Spirit told him what he knew about Nock Strube's plan, which he knew well.

"He's a small-time racketeer," said *The Spirit*. "Works this gag all over the country. Cleans up quite a bit, too."

"Well," said Dolan, "you don't seem to be concerned much about it. What am I to do?"

"Nothing," said *The Spirit*, grinning.

"Nothing!"

"Not till I give you the word, Commissioner," grinned *The Spirit*. "I have a little plan of my

own, which should trap 'em quick. It's working already. You just sit tight and wait."

Ellen caught *The Spirit* by the arm. "Aw, do you have to work now?" she demanded. "I thought we might—"

"Tut-tut, Angel face," laughed *The Spirit*. "I have work to do—so your pappy can keep his job."

They left the office with Dolan growling about smart young scalawags.

"Well, let me in on it," demanded Ellen archly.

The Spirit said, "Well, our friend Strube just bought out the biggest rat's nest in the county—*The Flamingo*, out in the Strip. You know the place."

"No! The one that Dad has always tried to close?"

The Spirit nodded. "The same—Now. Ellen, I must run along and set the stage. See you this evening!"

Strube's boys made a killing in Central City. And when they were ready to move on to further pickings, Strube told them of his new plan, but withheld information about buying *The Flamingo*.

"You boys have a few odds and ends to pick up here," said Strube. "So rustle now and get 'em in. You can leave in three days."

The Spirit made it a point to have a contact man see Finny that afternoon, and Finny hopped a cab and was flying toward *The Flamingo* in a hurry.

"No dice," said the boss of *The Flamingo* when Finny approached him about protection. "I'll be my own protection. Now scram!"

"You'll be sorry!" Finny warned the man.

Boss Strube was busy that night, and so was unable to see his boys. *The Spirit* saw to that. So naturally they carried out his usual orders.

That night *The Flamingo* burned to the ground.

Commissioner Dolan was happy, beaming.

"How did you arrange it?" he asked *The Spirit*.

The latter grinned. "I played the part of proprietor of *The Flamingo*, that's all—and of course got Finny on the job to approach me."

Dolan laughed. "Well, that wipes out Strube in one fell swoop! Great work, Spirit! Now what?"

"Got a date with Ellen," said *The Spirit*. "We're goin' to some clambake out in the country—fireworks 'n' everything!"

"Fireworks!" groaned Dolan. "A body'd think you'd had your fill of fires!"

The SPIRIT



BLIND

ON THE VERY DAY THAT
KILLER KETCH
FINISHED HIS TEN-YEAR
SENTENCE FOR SAFE-CRACKING...

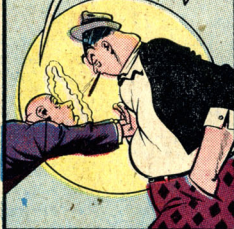
THE SAME OLD
NIGHT CLUB! WHY
DON'T THEY PUT OUT
THE **WELCOME**
SIGN?

Club
Orinoco
ONE
FLIGHT
UP



BUT... IF
YOU HAVEN'T
A
RESERVATION...

ONE SIDE!
I CAME TO
FIND **LULU**
MAE
CRONIN!

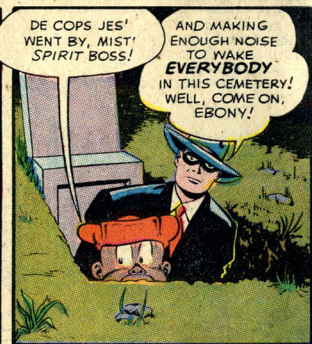
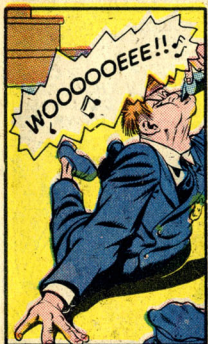
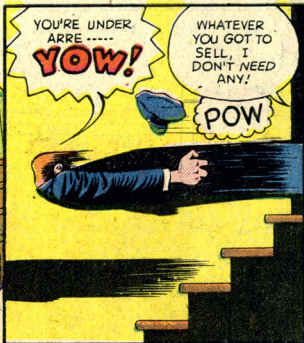
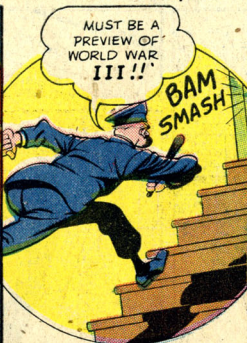


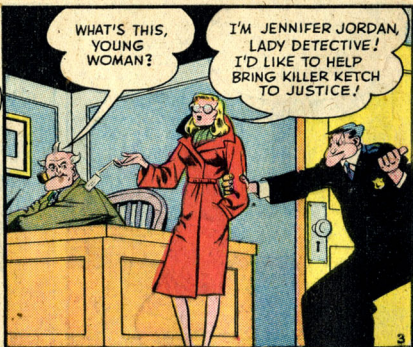
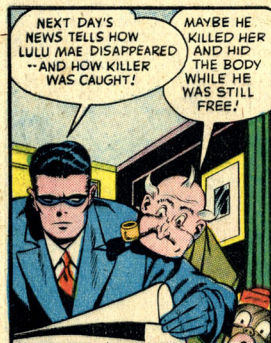
DON'T TELL ME
SHE DON'T SING
HERE ANY MORE!
DIG HER UP,
OR ---

QUICK!
SOMEBODY!
ANYBODY!
**ANY-
BODY!**

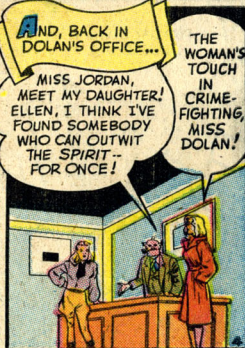


The Spirit

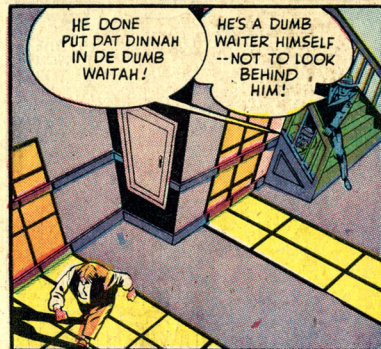
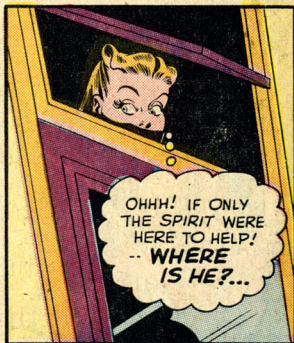
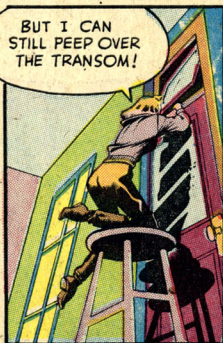




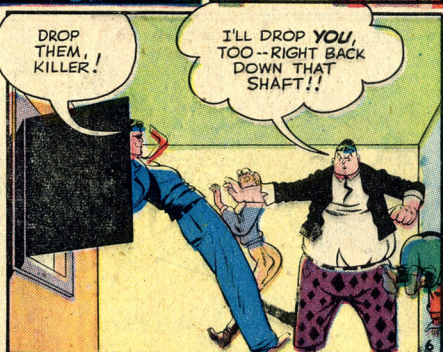
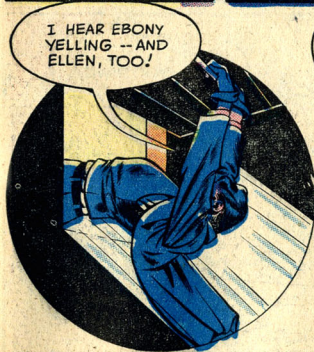
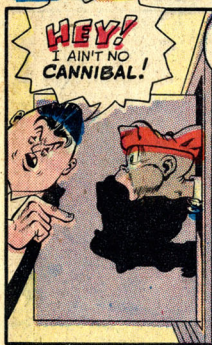
The Spirit

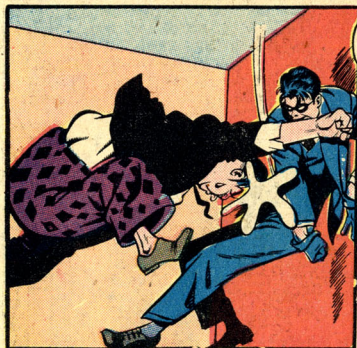
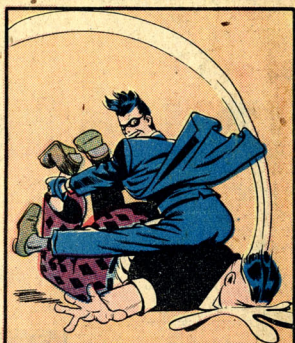
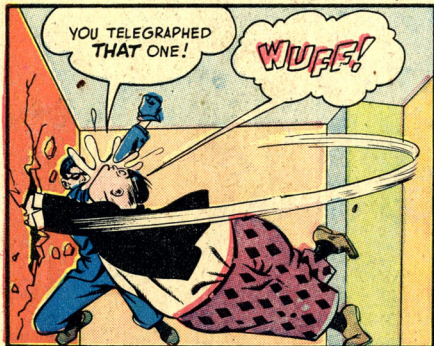


The Spirit



The Spirit





The Spirit



TEN YEARS AGO, I STOLE FOR LULU MAE CRONIN -- AND SHE SQUEALED ON ME!

SO YOU WERE LOOKING FOR REVENGE!



YES!... BUT THEN I NEEDED A PLACE TO HIDE! -- WHEN I FOUND HER, I MADE HER COVER ME UP!

WHERE IS SHE NOW?



WHY, SHE ---
OHHHHH!!



HE WAS GOING TO JUMP AT YOU! ... I SHOT HIM TO SAVE YOU!

HAND OVER THE GUN! -- AND WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

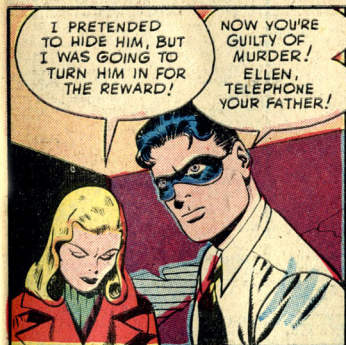


SHE'S JENNIFER JORDAN --

NO! ... SHE'S BLONDINED, WEARING GLASSES -- BUT I RECOGNIZE HER! -- SHE'S LULU MAE CRONIN!

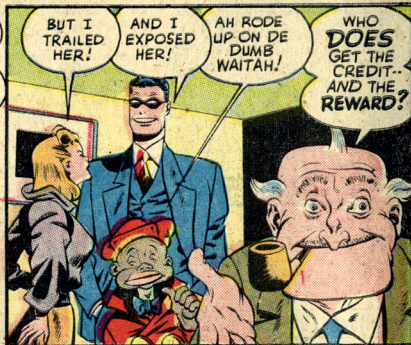


ALL RIGHT! YOU GOT ME! ... AFTER KILLER WENT TO PRISON, I CHANGED MY NAME AND COMPLEXION, GOT A NEW JOB ---



I PRETENDED TO HIDE HIM, BUT I WAS GOING TO TURN HIM IN FOR THE REWARD!

NOW YOU'RE GUILTY OF MURDER! ELLEN, TELEPHONE YOUR FATHER!



BUT I TRAILED HER!

AND I EXPOSED HER!

AH RODE UP ON DE DUMB WAITAH!

WHO DOES GET THE CREDIT-- AND THE REWARD?

**Our Biggest
Bulb Bargain**



AMAZING GET ACQUAINTED

TULIP OFFER

OUR FAMOUS HARDY PLANTING STOCK

Dozens of brilliant flaming colors in this Rainbow Mix Assortment . . . Darwin, Triumph, Breeder, and Cottage Tulips for remarkable low cost of less than 2c per bulb. Our prize selection of famous young especially selected strain and smaller because they are first and second year bulbs—1½" to 2¼" in circumference. Satisfaction guaranteed or money back.

Selected by Dutch-American growers and inspected by the State Department of Agriculture. Will fill your garden with blazing color ranging from delicate pastel shades to bold flaming hues. MAIL THE COUPON TODAY!

**100
BULBS
for \$1.69**

SPECIAL OFFER COUPON

Michigan Bulb Company, Dept. RR-1508
Grand Rapids 2, Michigan

Send order checked below. I will pay postman on arrival of package in time for fall planting, plus postage, on guarantee that I may return if not satisfied and get full refund.

- ☐ 100 1st and 2nd year size Tulip Bulbs with 12 Dutch Iris Bulbs extra . . . \$1.69
- ☐ 100 Exhibition Tulips with 12 Dutch Iris Bulbs extra . . . \$2.98
- ☐ 12 Evergreens each 2 years old or older . . . \$1.69
- ☐ 10 Chrysanthemum Plants with 3 Ranunculus Bulbs extra . . . \$1.69
- ☐ 20 Lily Bulbs with 3 Ranunculus Bulbs extra . . . \$1.94
- ☐ 50 Holland Crocus Bulbs with 3 Ranunculus Bulbs extra . . . \$1.69
- ☐ 12 King Alfred Daffodil Bulbs with 3 Ranunculus Bulbs extra . . . \$1.49
- ☐ 55 Perennials—11 popular varieties . . . \$1.94
- ☐ Send C.O.D. (I pay postage)
- ☐ Remittance enclosed (Michigan Bulb pays postage)

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

ZONE STATE

EXTRA

12 DUTCH IRIS BULBS

Yes, as your gift for ordering this astounding tulip assortment . . . we will send you 12 genuine first-year Dutch Iris Bulbs extra and without additional cost. These gorgeous irises will give your garden new purples and blues that will make it the envy of your neighbors. All solid disease-free bulbs . . . extra just for mailing your tulip order coupon now.

ORDER NOW! Send No Money!

Send no money to get this marvelous tulip bulb bargain! Just check which offers you desire and rush order today! Your tulip bulb assortment with extra Dutch Iris Bulbs will be sent you immediately in plenty of time for fall planting. When postman brings your package just pay amount as checked in coupon plus C.O.D. postage. If you remit with order, we'll pay postage. If you don't feel that you have hit the bargain jackpot of the garden world, return the bulbs and receive your money back.

Other Delightful Flower Bargains!

Chrysanthemums . . . New CUSHION MUMS. Young vigorous plants which will fill your garden with spectacular beauty. Assorted colors . . . 10 plants. . . **\$1.69**

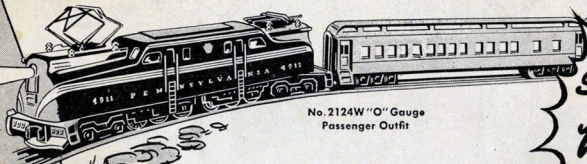
Lilies . . . Our hardy improved strain makes it easy for you to grow beautiful stately lilies. 10 varieties to make a color riot during the entire summer . . . 20 bulbs . . . **\$1.94**

MICHIGAN BULB CO., Dept. RR-1508 GRAND RAPIDS 2, MICH.



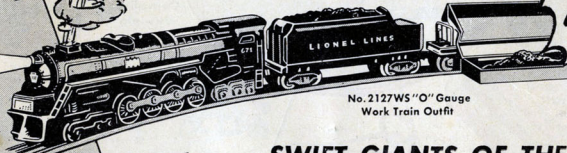
Oh! Boy—the New LIONEL Catalog is a Honey!

See the most wonderful trains in the world! Read all about the magic of Electronic Control! See the new smoke puffing device—so real and life-like. Read about the two-toned real railroad whistle—that can be operated by remote control!



No. 2124W "O" Gauge
Passenger Outfit

SMOKE!
Whistle!
ELECTRONIC CONTROL!



No. 2127WS "O" Gauge
Work Train Outfit

#2124W—consists of: 1 No. 2332 NEW Penn Electric Locomotive (with realistic horn), 3 No. 2625 Scale Pullman Cars, 8 sections OC Curved track, 5 Sections OS Straight Track, 1 RCS Remote Control Track, 1 CTC Lockon, 1 No. 167 Horn Controller. \$60.00

#2127WS—consists of: 1 No. 671 Penn Steam Turbine Locomotive (with smoke), 1 No. 2466W Whistle Tender, 1 No. 3459 Automatic Dump Car, 1 No. 2461 Transformer Car, 1 No. 2460 Crane, 1 No. 2420 Wrecker-Caboose with Search Light, 8 sections OC Curved Track, 5 Sections OS Straight Track, 1 RCS Remote Control Track, 1 CTC Lockon, 1 No. 167S Whistle Controller. \$60.00

SWIFT GIANTS OF THE RAILS

It's out of this world, fellows!—the fun you can have with LIONEL trains. Boy! are they swift and powerful—and scale detailed to look just like the real ones! Powerful precision motors—smoke-puffing Locos—and wait till you hear the whistle! To get all the details in full color pictures—send 10¢ for the catalog now.

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Box No. 433, Madison Square Station, New York 10, N. Y.

Please send me NEW LIONEL full color catalog. I enclose 10¢ to cover mailing.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____

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Boys!
Girls!

PRIZES GIVEN



**Daisy's
"Targeteer"
Air Pistol**

This swell outfit includes big air pistol, shot and complete target set. Sell one order plus 75c extra.



WRIST WATCH

A beautiful Wrist Watch, suitable for Boys, Girls, Men or Women. Given for selling one order, plus \$1.50 extra.

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Famous "Chemcraft" Set, for interesting experiments and Magic Book of 50 Mysterious Chemistry Exhibitions. Sell one order

POCKET WATCH



Standard size American made Pocket Watch with leather Fob. Sell only one order of Xmas Packs.



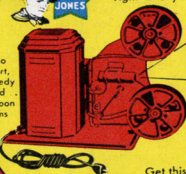
Dresser Set

Full size Comb, Brush and Mirror—beautifully decorated. Sell one order of Xmas Packs.

SHOW HOME MOVIES



Bring Famous Cowboy Stars right into your home



Get this 16MM Excel

Projector, including cord and 50 ft. of Cowboy Film. All given. Sell one order plus \$3.50 extra.

Also Sport, Comedy and Cartoon Films



Touchdown!

OFFICIAL SIZE FOOTBALL

Given for selling only one order.



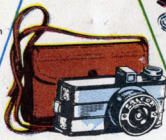
Pen and Pencil Set

Fountain pen with matching automatic pencil. Sell one order



SWEETHEART DOLL

Pert and pretty in her sweetheart gown. Sell one order of Xmas Packs.



CAMERA With Carrying Case

Takes 16 pictures on each roll of film. Sell one order plus \$1.00 extra.

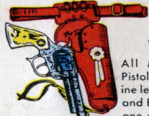


Campfire Ukulele

Full size. Decorated with Western scene. Clear

"Flying Ace"

Ball Bearing Roller Skates for Boys and Girls. Sell one order plus \$1.00 extra.



Famous Texan Jr.

All Metal Cap Pistol with genuine leather Holster and Belt. Sell only one order

GET YOUR PRIZE THIS EASY WAY

MORE PRIZES

shown in our big prize sheet
Roy Rogers Gun
Train and Track Set
Reflex Camera
Archery Outfit
Overnight Bag
Pool Table
Hunting Knife
Alarm Clock
Wood Burning Set
Fishing Outfit

OUR 29th YEAR

BOYS! GIRLS! Get swell prizes for yourself or gifts for Mother and Dad. Most prizes shown above and many others in our **BIG PRIZE SHEET** are GIVEN WITHOUT A CENT OF COST for selling 40 Xmas Packs at 10c each. Some of the bigger prizes require extra money as stated in **BIG PRIZE SHEET**.

It is easy to sell these Xmas Packs to your family, friends and neighbors. Each pack contains 96 Sparkling Xmas Seals in brilliant colors—a big value. When sold, send us the money and choose your prize from our Big Prize Sheet

Mail the coupon today for Xmas Packs and our Big Prize Sheet—tell us what prize you want.

SEND NO MONEY—WE TRUST YOU

AMERICAN SPECIALTY CO., Dept. 515 Lancaster, Pa.

AMERICAN SPECIALTY CO., Dept. 515 Lancaster, Pa.

Please send me your Big Prize Sheet and one order of 40 Xmas Packs. I will resell them at 10¢ each, send you the money, and get my prize.

My choice of Prize is _____

Name _____

Street Address _____
or R.F.D. Box _____

City _____

State _____

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Bumblebeeman (Udo P.)
(1961-08-13 - 2009-06-27)

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FLATTERMANN